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LAW SCHOOL-BOUND STUDENTS



YSU helps prepare students for top law schools in the country.

Photo by Aleksa Radenovic / Jambar Contributor

Legally speaking: YSU edition

By Aleksa Radenovic
Jambar Contributor

Law schools like Yale University, Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University are considered prestigious, and are within reach for students earning their undergraduate degrees at Youngstown State University.

YSU is one of the few schools in Ohio offering programs and services that give advantages to students who want to become attorneys.

Students interested in law school need to complete the Law School Admissions Test. The exam consists of three sections: logical reasoning, analytical reasoning and reading comprehension.

Alan Tomhave, associate dean of Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences & Education, teaches philosophy courses that develop students' critical thinking skills needed to complete the exam and suc-

ceed in law school.

"Philosophy teaches people how to think critically," Tomhave said. "We actually have a philosophy of law class that talks about different ways to interpret arguments and rules that are seen in law school classrooms."

Tomhave said if a student wishes to go to law school, the first thing they should do is take a logic course — no matter what their major is, work on earning a high GPA, and become involved in such student associations like Student Government Association, Ethics Bowl or Moot Court.

"In Ethics Bowl, you really put skills needed to argue a case into action and we push our students to their very best," Tomhave said. "Our Ethics Bowl students have gone to Yale Law School, Penn [State], OSU, Akron Law School and Cornell."

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Honoring physicians past and present

By Elizabeth Coss and Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

National Doctor's Day is a holiday dedicated to physicians and medical doctors for their work which is celebrated on March 30.

While Youngstown State University does not have a medical school, it works with many doctors through the Mercy Health office on campus, or bringing in outside physicians to work with students in the BaccMed program.

Dr. James Kravec, the chief clinical officer of Mercy Health in Youngstown and Lorain, Ohio, comes to YSU to educate students in healthcare-related majors. He said he loves giving back to the community and university that taught him.

"YSU was a very important part of my life," Kravec said. "It's a fascinating opportunity to have a student come in with a little bit of uncertainty and leave with knowledge about what he or she wants to do with her career. And to say I was a little part of it for some students is very important [to me]."

Kravec also said he enjoyed taking care of his community, including when he first started working.

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Law

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Paul Sracic, director of the Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center, stated that taking the Moot Court class and participating on the Moot Court team as an undergraduate is helpful to being admitted to law school. This is in part because of the skills necessary to succeed in Moot Court.

“Fortunately, YSU is one of the only state universities in Ohio that has a Moot Court program,” Sracic stated.

Academics play a big part in the admissions process, but law schools also look for people who’ve experienced the legal environment outside of the classroom.

Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, professor of politics and international relations, said when a student participates in internships before applying to law schools, they can offer those experiences to the schools they aspire to attend.

“With taking an internship, you are able to offer a more diverse perspective about legal challenges or things that you’ve seen in the courtroom,” Leftwich said.

Leftwich also said YSU has connections with the Court of Common Pleas, Community Legal Aid, Youngstown’s Police Department and the Mayor’s office to provide student opportunities.

“We have had students intern in former Congressman Tim Ryan’s and Bill Johnson’s office,” Leftwich said.

Another important part of the appli-

cation process is the personal statement essay, and help to write one is available on campus.

Susan Maruca, adjunct-faculty member, student advisor and an attorney, said a personal statement essay is a tool which helps law school admissions get to know the student on a deeper level, and ultimately provides information that sets applicants apart from others.

“Some law schools will admit about 200 students,” Maruca said. “The personal statement is one way that a student distinguishes themselves to the committee.”

Maruca said that each law school is different and might require specific questions to be answered in the personal statement.

“One thing I tell my students is that it is very important that you do not write only one personal statement for all the law schools,” Maruca said. “You do have to personalize it.”

YSU alumni, Ryan Sherer, said he received full tuition to attend the University of Toledo’s School of Law because of opportunities offered at YSU.

“The biggest bump on my application that made me stand out more was Moot Court,” Sherer said. “If I hadn’t taken Moot Court, I wouldn’t be able to talk about half of the things I can today — especially in law school.”

YSU offers guidance for students interested in law school on its pre-law advisement page.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Sherer
YSU alumni Ryan Sherer.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
High: 49°F Low: 34°F Chance of precip: 0%	High: 56°F Low: 55°F Chance of precip: 91%	High: 61°F Low: 27 Chance of precip: 88%	High: 50°F Low: 36°F Chance of precip: 5%	High: 65°F Low: 44°F Chance of precip: 25%	High: 65°F Low: 48°F Chance of precip: 25%	High: 65°F Low: 32°F Chance of precip: 55%
 Mostly Cloudy	 Thunderstorms	 Thunderstorms	 Partly Cloudy	 Partly Cloudy	 Partly Cloudy	 Thunderstorms

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

PENGUINS PITCH IDEAS



The Penguin Shark Tank will take place in the Williamson College of Business Administration.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

Shark Tank event takes a bite out of ETC

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

The Excellence Training Center at Youngstown State University is hosting the Penguin Shark Tank from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 26 in the auditorium of the Williamson College of Business Administration.

The ETC, the WCBA, the Small Business Development Center, the Apex Accelerator and the Youngstown Business Incubator created the event for students interested in entrepreneurship.

Jackie Ruller, director of the ETC, said the Burton D. Morgan Foundation donated \$10,000 to sponsor and support the event. \$2,000 is being used to set up the event, while the other \$8,000 will be dispersed between the students pitching their business ideas.

"We're using about \$8,000 of the \$10,000 just purely to give out grants or — we're calling it — business investments to YSU students," Ruller said. "Students will pitch and then the judges will decide how much money they get based on their budget that they present

and their idea."

Ruller said five applicants will be contacted to pitch their business ideas for the event in front of a panel of judges, or in other words "sharks." Depending on the amount of applicants, the number of students pitching their ideas could increase to 10.

The "sharks" for the event include CEO of the Youngstown Business Incubator Barb Ewring, former first lady of YSU Ellen Tressel and YSU alum Mason Green.

Ruller said students can still receive a business investment even if they don't want to pitch an idea during the event.

"Students can apply to pitch an idea at the Penguin Shark Tank or if they don't want to do that, they can apply for a micro grant through our online application process. So either way, they can pitch or not, but they still have an opportunity to get business investments," Ruller said.

This is the first year for the event and Ruller said she hopes to hold the event every year.

"We're calling this the inaugural year, inaugural event. It depends on the success of the event and if the [Burton D.] Morgan Foundation chooses to fund us again, or if not, maybe the university would have funding that they would support the event," Ruller said.

Ruller said she wants the event to be fun for the audience by supplying music and food, as well as an award for the audience to vote on.

"It's going to be a fun event. We're going to have music, we going to have selfie stations, food and of course door prizes. So we absolutely encourage participants to bring their family, friends because we're going to have a fan favorite award too. So anybody watching or in the stands can vote for their favorite [pitch] and then the winner for that — the person who gets the most votes — will get \$500," Ruller said.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the ETC and the Penguin Shark Tank event, visit its webpage.

Doctors

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“In the early part of my career I took care of patients in hospice. That was a very important part of my career and I loved working with hospice patients and making sure that I was able to care for patients at the end of life. That was very important for families, for the patients themselves [and] for their comfort,” Kravec said.

The role of physicians, doctors and nurses has changed over the past 150 years, along with drastic improvements for healthcare.

In the 1800’s, local healthcare physicians focused on at-home care where patients would receive aid aimed at a variety of issues.

Cassie Nespor, the curator for the University Archives and the Rose Melnick Medical Museum, said the role of a physician used to vary within a commu-

“That was a very important part of my career and I loved working with hospice patients and making sure that I was able to care for patients at the end of life.”

— **Dr. James Kravec,**

The chief clinical officer of Mercy Health in Youngstown

nity.

Nespor explained Youngstown was no different, as Henry Manning — one of the first doctors in the Youngstown area in the early 1800’s — was involved in a variety of occupations and services.

“[Manning] owned a big farm, so most of his income came from actually the products of the farm,” Nespor said. “He also held other posts — he was the head of the school board and he was the postmaster general ... he was involved in a whole bunch of other things because he was somebody of that status in the community.”

However, since the 1800’s, Nespor said medical education has come a long way.

She explained that before the creation of Northeast Ohio Medical University and other consortiums, the first kinds of doctors in the Mahoning Valley could either apprentice or study at a handful of medical schools, where much of their studies were focused on readings, instead of patient care.

Haley Morgan, a junior nursing major, has many family members in the medical field and said doctors commit a lot to their occupation.

“I look up to them, the work they do is incredible,” Morgan said. “The extent that doctors go to, including their hours and how much they dedicate themselves to patient care ... that’s just a lot of work.”

Morgan said recognizing physicians through a holiday like National Doctor’s Day acts as inspiration for incoming students who may want to become doctors.

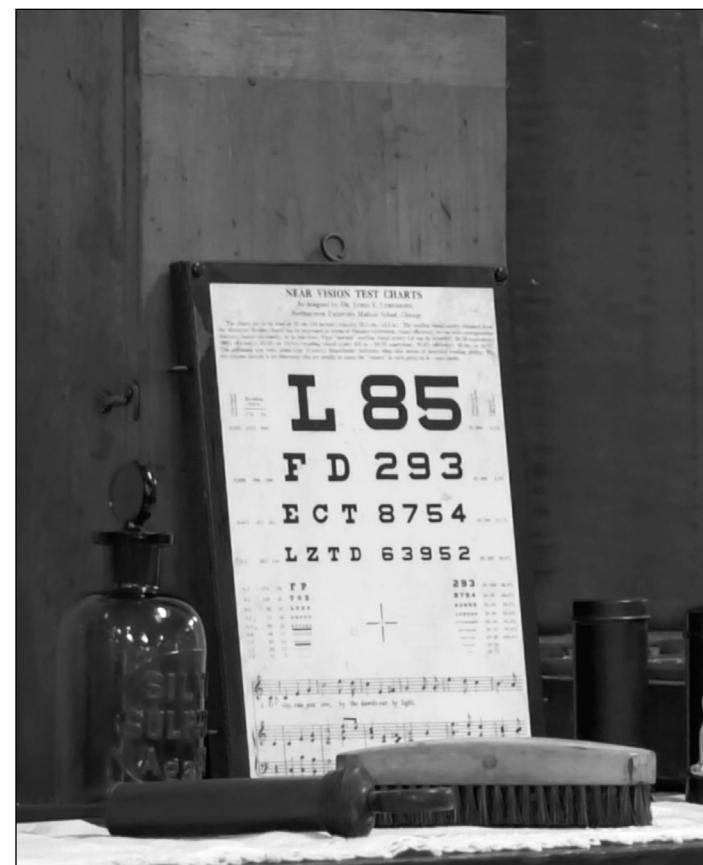


Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

The role of doctors have changed over the past 150 years.

COVID-19 digital collection continues

By **Raeghan Hilton**
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University students have the opportunity to include their pandemic experiences in the COVID Experience Collection.

The collection was created by Cassie Nespor, curator of the University Archives and Melnick Medical Museum, to gather personal experiences of students and staff on campus since the pandemic started.

“[The COVID Experience Collection] was a project with professor Shelley Blundell, and I remember talking to her about that in the summer of 2020 but I think we actually used it in her spring 2021 class. So, her journalism students really helped get the word out about the collection and that we were collecting submissions and that we were targeting certain groups of students,” Nespor said.

Nespor said the job of the Universi-

ty Archives is to collect YSU’s history and make sure historical documents are saved — including digital collections.

The COVID Experience Collection is not the only collection with pieces from the pandemic. Another collection, the COVID Response Collection, was created in April 2020 and includes digital pieces published by the university in response to the pandemic.

“A lot of the stuff, since we were at home, being created for the pandemic was all digital files and I didn’t want to wait to make sure that we got those files from the departments later. I wanted to make sure that we had something, so I pretty quickly started thinking about how we were going to document this and save it,” Nespor said.

The COVID Response Collection includes pieces like the COVID Dashboards, communications from the president, and other regularly published updates from YSU.

The COVID Experience Collection is still asking for submissions from anyone who wants to share their experience during the pandemic at YSU. However, none of these collections are currently available for public viewing.

“I wanted people to be open and, you know, feel confident about what they were putting out there. We wanted to wait for a period of time, these were collected sometimes pretty early in that pandemic experience, and so I didn’t [want to] sensationalize it or have people be shy about submitting how they felt and what they were struggling with,” Nespor said.

There’s no specific formats required for submissions in the COVID Experience Collection, Nespor said. Students have submitted photos, artwork, interview recordings and shorter videos.

Nespor said the University Archives is interested in submissions from specific groups of students such as student-athletes, international students, students

with care responsibilities and students who lived on campus.

“We haven’t had many submissions since last spring. I feel like people have kind of moved on. They may not want to think about it anymore. If people would like to submit, yeah, we can certainly use more submissions in the collection. Anything we can gather,” Nespor said.

To submit a form to the COVID Experience Collection, visit the Maag Library website.

“I didn’t [want to] sensationalize it or have people be shy about submitting how they felt and what they were struggling with,”

— **Cassie Nespor,**
Curator of the University Archives

Revamping registration

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

The Office of the Registrar has upgraded the class registration system on Penguin Portal. Alongside changing the website’s design and adding new features, it also changed how students register for classes.

The new banner system combines searching, planning, registering, waitlisting and dropping classes onto one site. Under the “Plan Ahead” section, students can make their schedules for future semesters, and use that plan when they register.

Students can also look through the course catalog and semester’s courses, and print or screenshot pages, including a calendar for their week’s schedule of registered classes.

To get to the new site, log in to Penguin Portal, and click “Course Registration”.

The order of priority registration has stayed the same. Students are also still required to see their advisor before registering if they are under 60 credit hours or not

in good academic standing. Students can view their “Student Profiles” in Penguin Portal to see where they are standing.

While the class registration site has had many updates, the last time it had an update to the student self-service system was 2008. Then, the university worked over a period of three years, from 2005, to change its website from a homegrown banner system to one provided by the company Ellucian.

Tysa Egleton, the university registrar, said the upgrades to the website were planned and user tested.

“When we were building it, we actually used a student focus group to test a lot of the setup and where we were positioning things, and they had very limited questions. They just kept saying ‘this makes sense, [and] looks easier,’” Egleton said.

Egleton said the feedback for the newest site has been positive.

“We’ve allowed some of our student employees to test it for us and they had no questions. They actually said it was much easier using this system [more] than the last

one,” Egleton said.

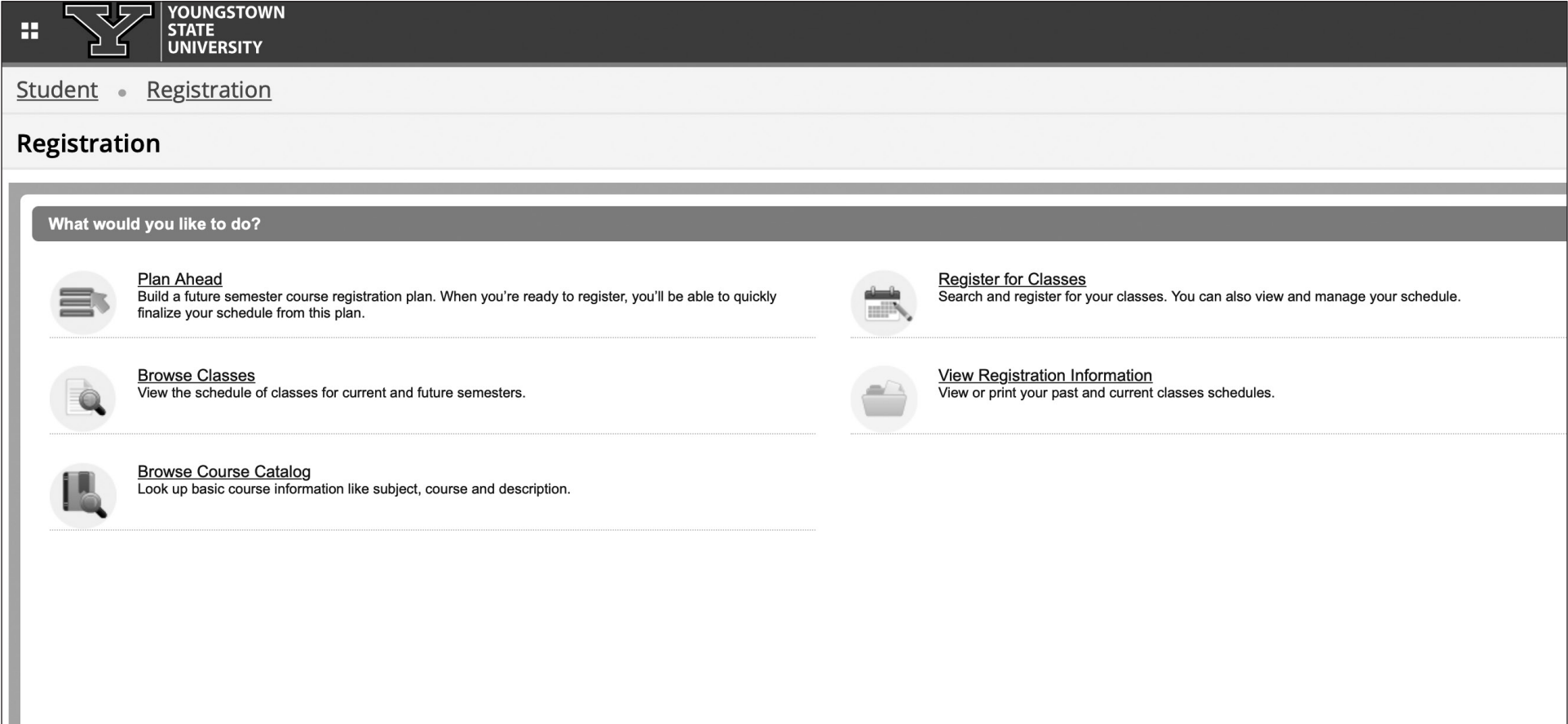
Egleton also said she understands students may have a hard time with the updates, especially if they were used to the old one.

“If anybody doesn’t adjust to change — maybe that might be a struggle — because it does look different. If you got used to clicking on things and not even paying attention because you just had it memorized, it does have a completely different flow to it. So you do have to pay attention to what you’re clicking,” Egleton said.

Despite that, Egleton said she expects students will adjust to the upgraded website.

“People will adjust easier to it because it’s not a stretch. You’re still registering for classes. You still have to look up those classes and figure out your times, so it’s not like it’s a completely foreign experience,” Egleton said.

If students have any questions or trouble with the new registration website and system, go to the Penguin Service Center on the second floor of Meshel Hall, visit its website or call (330) 941-6000.



The updated class registration website on Penguin Portal.

Photo by Madison Fessler / The Jambar

Chillin' in The Cove

By **Jazelle Artman and Shianna Gibbons**
The Jambar

Student Involvement introduced Friday Nights at The Cove from 7 to 10 p.m. at the beginning of the spring semester.

Caleb Queen, a coordinator of Student Involvement, said Friday Nights at The Cove are for students looking for something fun to do.

"We are trying to have some programming in The Cove with extended hours on Friday nights so that students that are looking for something to do or students that live on campus and want something fun to do, there's some kind of option for them during that time," Queen said.

The Cove opened in January 2018 and is a space for students to relax and socialize with one another. The Cove has ping pong tables, pool tables and TVs to watch

movies or play video games. Last spring semester, The Cove introduced Snack and Chill, where students can buy ice cream and other sweet treats.

Queen said each student organization sponsors a Friday Nights at The Cove, and it can range in activities such as a ping-pong tournament, a movie night and more.

"Anyone can come hang out, but typically we are looking for our departments, clubs or registered student organizations to sponsor an event in there," Queen said. "It can be a game night, a movie night, or something more extensive like a dance, a disco or something like that."

Queen also said all students are invited to come without being involved in the sponsoring organization, even if they don't want to participate in the set activities.

The Student Digest sends a weekly

newsletter that features Friday Nights at The Cove, with each student organization sponsoring the event and a brief summary of activities that will be sponsored that night.

Planned Parenthood Generation Action and YSUnity will be sponsoring events April 14 for students to come play games and unwind at the end of the week.

YSUnity will also be sponsoring the week after — April 21 — to host a 1920s art deco-themed Gayla.

Rayvin Gorrell, YSUnity president and junior anthropology major, said the Gayla is meant to be a second-chance prom.

"My members discussed wanting to have a second-chance prom because maybe they didn't feel like they and their partner or who they were dating at the time weren't accepted at their high school prom, so they wanted one — a second-chance dance — and this was our op-

portunity to throw one for our collegiate pride month during April," Gorrell said.

Gorrell said there will be decorations, light refreshments and a photo-op. The event is open to students and staff to come with their friends or partners.

"Although it is more accepted to be a part of the LGBTQ+ community now, it is still a feat to overcome and come out of the closet," Gorrell said. "It's just very important to feel welcome and have a fun place to party with who you love. Other people are obviously welcome to bring their partners it is not just LGBTQ+ people who are welcome to come."

The Residence Hall Association will sponsor the last Friday Nights at the Cove event for the spring semester April 28. All events are free and open to the Youngstown State University community.

Making history by making music

By **Shianna Gibbons**
The Jambar

Music composition major Aaron White, made Youngstown State University and Dana School of Music history by being the first freshman to compose music for the Jazz Ensemble to play during its concert Feb. 20.

"Snapdragon" is the title of the composition, and it was inspired by the colorful flowers that White's dad and grandpa grew in the yard at his house. White started the composition in the summer before this academic year, originally on the piano.

"I just kind of toss things around, and a lot of it is just improvised. Usually, my best ideas aren't thought in detail — I just kind of play something. I played the starting line, and I just really liked it. The little opening lick to the melody is used a lot in my arrangement," White said.

White said he started playing music and learning the piano in middle school, but his passion for composing began in high school.

"I started learning music theory and how to read music, and those skills helped me start composing," White

said. "I was already just coming up with little things on the piano and using my ear. Once I understood jazz and got better with music, I was able to come up with better, more complex things."

White went to Dave Morgan, a music composition professor, and told Morgan he wanted to arrange the song for the Jazz Ensemble.

"[Morgan] was very helpful with giving me ideas [and a] better understanding of how to actually arrange for an ensemble like that because you're working with 17 instruments — not all different ones — but still, it's a lot of stuff," White said. "Over Christmas break is when I finalized everything I had written, and I came back in the spring semester and handed it to the big band and we took it from there."

White said he was unaware that he would be the first freshman from the Dana School of Music to compose a song for the Jazz Ensemble.

"I had no idea about that at all. I remember [Morgan] telling me, 'I was never expecting a freshman to do this.' I don't remember him ever saying it was the first time he's ever seen it at YSU," White said.

White is not a part of the Jazz Ensemble but was in the jazz combo that opened for the Feb. 20 concert. White also composed and performed "Quadacity," in the jazz combo. However, when the Jazz Ensemble performed "Snapdragon," he was given the opportunity to play along with the band on the piano.

"When I first heard them play it, it was kind of a surreal experience. I'm so used to writing this stuff out on my computer, hearing the playback, and being like, 'Okay, well, this is just crappy computer-generated sounds. I'm never going to hear this get played by real instruments.' And then it was played by real instruments," White said. "They played it very well on the first time, and I'm just hearing all of this right away, and I'm just like, 'Wow, this is a real group of people playing my music.'"

There may be some fine-tuning and small changes for "Snapdragon," according to White. However, White said he is going to focus on composing other pieces of music.

White said writing music is one of his favorite things to do, and the Dana School of Music has been a great opportunity for him to pursue his dreams.



YSU graduate student Sierra Besser-Paul, works at The Cove.

Photo by Haley Thierry / Jambar Contributor

Now hiring: Student employees

By Haley Thierry
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University offers jobs on campus for students.

Melanie Leonard, student employment specialist for the Division of Student Success, said students can apply for jobs on campus online through Handshake or directly with the department that's hiring. Departments will start posting more job opportunities within several weeks as the semester closes.

"The student employment process is all done through the department. They post the jobs, they interview the students, they choose the students. Once they decide what students they're going to hire for a job, they then send our office an appointment form and we process it from there," Leonard said.

According to Leonard, there are a number of benefits for students if they were to work on campus, including

learning to work with people, being in different environments and having jobs that go toward classes and careers, while still receiving a paycheck.

"Departments will work with the student, with their school schedules to make it easier for them to work. Student workers are able to register for classes sooner than other students once registration starts," Leonard said.

Leonard said getting a job on campus is an opportunity for both international and domestic students to make extra money.

"When you're talking about domestic students or international students, international students by law are not allowed to work in jobs off of campus. They can only work on-campus jobs," Leonard said.

Claire Berardini, associate provost for Student Success, said having a job on campus allows students to branch out and develop new relationships within the community.

"It's a way for students to form connections with staff

and sometimes faculty outside of what they'd normally be able to do," Berardini said. "Student employees get to be kind of part of their department family in many cases."

Sierra Besser-Paul, an international graduate student from Canada studying athletic training, works at Guest Services and The Cove in Kilcawley Center. She explained why she decided to work on campus.

"With my Visa, the only place I could work is on campus," Besser-Paul said.

Besser-Paul said she recommends any student looking for a job to seek one on campus.

"I don't have to go far for work. I just walk to work, then I run straight to clinicals right after, so I like how everything's in the same area, and you get to see students all the time. It's like you're more a part of the community," Besser-Paul said.

To view available jobs on campus, visit Handshake through the Penguin Portal website.



The Shootouts held a “Stampede” photo shoot.

Photo courtesy of Jamie Escola

Shoot for the moon, reach for the stars

By John Ostapowicz
Jambar Contributor

From Akron to Youngstown, The Shootouts have made an impact on traditional country music and musicians in the area. With the help of Grammy-nominated producers, the band has added its own spin on country roots.

The Shootouts combine western, honky-tonk, bakersfield and other various branches of country music, which has created its own original sound. The group has kept old-school country new by blending different styles together.

The Shootouts released “Stampede” on Feb. 24. Since the release of its third album, it has launched to the top ten on the Alt-Country Charts which sparked the Stampede Tour, prompting a visit to Youngstown.

Lead vocalist, guitarist and band leader for The Shootouts, Ryan Humbert, grew up in Akron and his love for music stemmed from his family.

“My musical upbringing came from three places, my dad, my mom and my grandpa,” Humbert said.

Humbert gravitated toward singers such as George Strait and Lucinda Williams, who used traditional styles of country singing and distinctive performances.

The Shootouts started when Humbert met lead guitarist Brian Poston and found they both shared interest in traditional country music and wanted to recreate the classic sound.

“Just for fun [Poston and I] said ‘let’s start this project,’” Humbert said. “We originally intended this to be a side project doing cover songs, that was it.”

After the first show the pair did together, Humbert instantly knew The Shootouts had created something special.

“It felt like a bolt of lightning,” Humbert said. “It was

something where I immediately knew we were on to something.”

From there, Humbert recruited vocalist Emily Bates, whom he had worked with for several years prior to The Shootouts.

The decision to switch from cover songs to original music led to the creation of the band’s debut album, “Quickdraw.” The release of the album in 2019 quickly led to the band’s success, with the help of pedal steel player Al Moss.

“We felt that we wanted to get into original music very quickly,” Humbert said. “[Moss] helped us figure out our voice as songwriters.”

With the help of the band members collectively writing songs together, The Shootouts took their record to Producer Jim Campilongo and Co-Producer Luca Benedetti in Brooklyn, New York.

In 2021, The Shootouts followed up its freshman album with “Bullseye,” the second record in the band’s discography. Grammy-nominated producer and founder of BR5-49, Chuck Mead, helped the band produce the tracks on “Bullseye.”

The partnership started when Humbert handed Mead a copy of the band’s first album. From there, the partnership expanded, leading to songs being recorded in Nashville, Tennessee.

The album was praised by Rolling Stones Country, American Songwriter and The Bluegrass Situation. It also spent over 18 consecutive weeks on the Americana Music Association Top 30 Album chart.

“Bullseye” also found itself at number one on The Alt-Country Speciality Chart, The Roots Music Report Country Albums and The Roots Music Report Americana Albums.

The same year, the songs on the album landed on Sirius XM’s Outlaw Country channel and Spotify’s “Pulse of

Americana” playlist.

The Shootouts’ bass guitarist, Kevin McManus, joined the band in preparation for the next album.

McManus knew The Shootouts prior to joining the band and played with The Outside Voices, a rock-based band for seven years. Switching from rock to country prompted McManus to relearn the bass guitar.

“I was at a point where I was looking for a change,” McManus said. “Being in a true retro-country outfit was new to me.”

A year after the release of The Shootouts’ critically acclaimed “Bullseye,” the band released “Stampede.” Frontman and founder of Asleep at the Wheel, Ray Benson, was introduced by a mutual friend to the band to help produce the record.

“We weren’t expecting to make another record so quickly after Bullseyes,” Humbert said. “[Ray] liked the band and agreed to work with us.”

To coincide with the album release, The Shootouts made its Grand Ole Opry debut in Nashville, Tennessee.

“Stampede” features several guest artists, such as Jim Lauderdale, Raul Malo, Ray Benson, Buddy Miller and Marty Straut.

Youngstown-based singer-songwriter JD Eicher has a mutual connection with The Shootouts. He worked on numerous projects and kept in close contact with Humbert.

“Ryan has produced some of my band’s music and I have co-written a song or two with him,” Eicher said. “We are just collaborators and good friends.”

The Shootouts will be near Youngstown in Columbiana, music begins at 2 p.m., April 29 at Birdfish Brewing Co. There will be no cover charge.

To listen to The Shootouts, visit Spotify or Apple Music.

PPGA fights for reproductive rights

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University Planned Parenthood Generation Action organization was created in 2020 to bring awareness to sexual health and reproductive freedom on campus.

Junior anthropology major Ally Wright, is the club's president. Wright said PPGA hosts events to educate students on abortion access, STDs, pregnancies, healthy relationships and more.

"We table a lot, and at those tableings sometimes we have questions to ask people related to sexual health and reproductive health and see if they can get the answers right and we will give them prizes," Wright said. "We are actually partnering with [YSUnity: SOGIE Society] and we'll be having a game night and movie night [in April] for anybody to join."

Wright said that PPGA offers resources for those seeking help with birth control and abortion.

"I want to spread awareness about the abortion pill by mail initiative that's going on," Wright said. "If you need it ... contact me ... We're not technically partnering with [medical services] but I am promoting them

and their services they provide."

Wright said the organization has put free condom bowls around campus to make safe sex more accessible.

"The condom bowls that are in the resident halls, that is courtesy of PPGA. We are trying to get them in all main buildings on campus including [Maag Library] and Kilcawley Center," Wright said.

Sophomore political science major Elise Williams, is an active member in PPGA. Williams said it has been difficult to implement some of PPGA's goals.

"Just to put condoms in the condom bowls in the dorms, [Wright] has to go through multiple levels of administration ... to get that approved," Williams said. "It seems a little silly that we have to go through that much red tape to promote safe sex."

Williams said the organization has taken an active abortion-rights stance in the community and participated in a protest of the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Regardless, Williams said PPGA primarily wants to educate and help anyone who needs it.

"I know that you might be on the fence about the pro-choice, pro-life issue," Williams said. "We are not here to push you into doing one or the other. We just want

you to know that we are a supportive and understanding group. We also understand whatever decision you make, and will find you the resources to make those decisions safely."

Chris Cremers, freshman biochemistry major, is the treasurer for PPGA. Cremers joined to bring awareness about reproductive rights on campus.

"Reproductive rights are just very important to me. I believe everyone should have the right to their own body," Cremers said. "I'm willing to try and step up and help the most I can because it's an important topic to me."

Cremers said PPGA has a welcoming environment, and joining the organization is a great way to make friends.

"If you're totally not completely on board, I know there's a lot of mixed opinions about abortion and different things like that and reproductive health. It's just a good way to meet people and learn information about the things that are going on," Cremers said.

To see when PPGA is meeting next, go to its website. For more information, check out @ppgayoungstown on Instagram.



Planned Parenthood Generation Action organization brings awareness to reproductive rights.

Photo courtesy of Rose McClurkin



Anton Donghia and the Rev. Norbert Keliher discuss scripture in the Bible.

Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

Bible study in Kilcawley

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

The Catholic Penguins Men's Bible Study gathers every Friday morning to discuss the Bible with fellow peers at Youngstown State University.

Anton Donghia, a junior mechanical engineering major, said the men's Bible study used to be held at the St. John Henry Newman Center but recently moved to be on campus because it was easier for the members to meet up.

"We started doing a Bible study on campus, I believe last semester. Previously, we had it at the Newman Center but we moved it to be on campus for convenience and to kind of also be present on campus," Donghia said.

Donghia said the Bible study has impacted him in many ways.

"Bible study is great at building community," Donghia said. "It's made a big impact just on my practical learning of like 'What is the Bible?' 'What's trying to be said in this passage or that passage?' and hearing the other ideas from the other guys, it's very helpful growing in your own faith and trying to look at something with a different lens than you would initially think."

Donghia said the group is following Lent, a Catholic liturgical and penitential season, to prepare for Easter.

"It's a time of trying to grow in holiness and trying to focus more on the passions that you're ready to celebrate when it comes to the resurrection of Easter," Donghia said.

At the moment, the Rev. Norbert Keliher, a Dominican priest and chaplain for the Catholic Penguins Ministry, joins the Bible studies to help students better understand the passage and answer any questions that may arise.

"We open up the scriptures and talk about one passage together, give a chance for the men to just discuss their own ideas and reactions so that there's bringing something of yourself into [the Bible study] but then when difficult questions come up or there's a point worth exploring, I'll do a little bit of teaching," Keliher said.

Keliher said he hopes to train some of the members so the Bible Study can be run without his presence.

"In the future, [I hope] to train members who are coming in right now to lead their own Bible studies," Keliher said.

Keliher also said people struggle in reading and learning the Bible because of a lack of confidence.

"There's a lot of people who know what the Bible is but they don't feel confident in picking up the Bible

themselves and trying to understand it, play with it," Keliher said. "The goal really is just to get people comfortable opening the Bible, learning the basic principles about how Catholics read the Bible."

Keliher said the Bible studies are open to anybody who is curious and requires no commitment while also allowing students to build a community and explore their own faith.

"Our two main goals in the Catholic Penguins are to build up inclusive communities so people from any background, they don't even have to be Catholic, but also to get more depth for people who are Catholic to really explore their faith to discover how wonderful it is," Keliher said.

The group currently has 10 members. Keliher said the group is looking to potentially divide into two different sessions and times in the fall 2023 semester.

"Ten is about the max that I would want to have to have [a] good discussion so starting in the fall, we're going to have to split up and have two different Bible studies, two different times," Keliher said. "I'm not going to be physically present at all Bible studies."

The next Catholic Penguins Men's Bible study is 10 a.m. March 31 at Kilcawley Center in room 2041.

Sudoku

		8					9	
6		3				5		
5				1		3	6	7
8				7	9			
			4	8	1			
			6	5				3
7	8	5		9				6
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	2					9		

8	5	7						
	3			7	4	9		
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THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

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The Jambar Column

Another school shooting

I don't have anything witty to say about it. It's upsetting and frustrating.

I graduated from high school the year before the Sandy Hook shooting. I was at the tail-end of the last generation of students to have never participated in an active shooter drill.

Before Sandy Hook, the most prominent school shooting I remember was the Virginia Tech debacle in 2007. In 2023, there have already been 13.

Thirteen school shootings. Just this year.

Day after day, month after month, year after year. Nothing changes because special interests continue to jam up the wheels in Washington D.C. Gun violence has overtaken automobile accidents as the number one killer of children and teens. And still, nothing changes.

Frankly, guns are the worst. Humans have created no other object that's sole purpose is to take the life of another being.

They will never take your guns; the Supreme Court ensured the whole, "well regulated militia" thing didn't matter. I sure hope they start regulating them, though.

It's not a mental health issue. It's not an issue of gender, video games or whatever else the NRA decides is the current x-factor. It's guns. They are too powerful and too easy to obtain.

I have a few ideas:

What makes the most sense, to me, is to treat guns like cars. We should have to obtain a learner's permit, and take classes and a test before being able to buy or carry firearms. We should also be required to purchase gun insurance,



Henry Shorr

the same way we do with our cars. Yes, you have a right to own a deadly weapon, but you should not have the right to own a weapon irresponsibly.

Also, civilians have no reason

to own an automatic weapon. Stop selling them to the public. I don't even like magazines. Make people reload their weapons bullet by bullet. It would give people more opportunity to stop a shooter if it takes longer for them to reload their weapon.

Finally, as Chris Rock said, ammunition should be way more expensive. If each bullet cost more than the weapon that fired it, people may think longer about using firearms so readily.

All in all, I'm sick of it. I don't want to bring children into this world who will die at the hands of a school shooter.

My friends who are parents are terrified. My friends who are teachers are terrified. Students are terrified. The only people who don't seem to be terrified are those who can actually make a difference by changing policy.

To those who love their guns and freedom more than they want to keep students and other civilians safe, next time you are wondering about why people my age aren't having kids — this is why.

We're terrified of sending them off to school to die at the hands of a completely preventable tragedy.

The Jambar Editorial

The Willow Project

President Joe Biden approved an oil drilling project called the Willow Project on March 13. As stated by the Frontiersman, drilling will begin by 2029.

The project will take place in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. Prior to its approval, the project was said to represent "the biggest U.S. oil field in decades."

As stated by CNN, "The Willow Project is a decades-long oil drilling venture in the National Petroleum Reserve, which is owned by the federal government. The area where the project is planned holds up to 600 million barrels of oil, though that oil would take years to reach the market since the project has yet to be constructed."

A day before approval, Biden said he will bar oil drilling in millions of acres in the Arctic Ocean. As stated by CBS News, Biden also said he will add new protections in the petroleum reserve in Alaska.

Concerns over the project have been voiced all the way from teenagers to politicians. As stated by CBS News, "Mr. Biden's decision pits Alaska lawmakers against environmental groups and many Democrats in Congress who say the project is out of step with his goals to slash planet-warming carbon emissions in half by 2030 and move to clean energy."

A campaign spread online under the name #StopWillow to garner signatures in support of stopping the Willow Project. People are posting on TikTok, Twitter and Instagram to promote the petition.

Posts of concern spread online with input and information for those who didn't originally know about the project and decision.

The petition has since gathered almost 5 million signatures, but did not stop its

approval.

As stated on openaccessgovernment.org, the project's effects during its 30-year timespan would equal the same amount of greenhouse gasses that two million vehicles would create in the same timespan.

Within one year, the project would create over 9 million metric tons of carbon pollution.

"Evidence has shown that the project would produce the equivalent of more than 278 million tonnes (306 million short tonnes) of greenhouse gasses over its 30-year life. This number is roughly equal to the combined emissions from two million passenger cars over the same time period," as stated by openaccessgovernment.org.

There is an organization called Earthjustice trying to sue on behalf of conservation groups to stop the Willow Project. As stated by [Earthjustice.org](https://earthjustice.org), Biden's approval of the project will go against his promises to cut the amount of greenhouse-gas emissions in half by 2030.

While it may not seem like a big issue now, the fate of the environment is possibly being held in this project's hands.

Quote of the week

The business of America is business.

— Calvin Coolidge,
Speech before Society of
American Newspaper Editors,
January 17, 1925

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for YSU Student Media positions.

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Sports Multimedia Journalist	TV Crew**
Columnist	Teleprompter Operator**
Web Manager*	Designer*
Assistant Web Manager*	Copy Editor*
Social Media Manager	Assistant Copy Editor*
Advertising Producer	Assistant Rookery Radio Manager
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*must be available Wednesday evenings

**must be available Thursday evenings

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Penguins on the road

By **Cameron Niemi**
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University softball team traveled to the University of Detroit Mercy to play a three-game series. The Penguins went 2-1 against the Titans and moved to 4-1 in conference play.

The Penguins played a doubleheader March 26. The women dominated the first game as they won 13-1. Junior Sophie Howell got her sixth win of the season on the mound and only allowed three hits.

Senior Megan Turner hit a solo and a two-run home run. Senior Hailey Roach and freshman Kennedy Dean also hit a home run for Youngstown State.

In the second game, the Penguins won 5-1 as junior pitcher Devan Ryan secured her fifth win of the season.

The Penguins jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, the Titans pulled within one in the bottom of the second. The 'Guins scored three more runs as Turner hit a late-

game homer to secure the victory, which gave the team its sixth win in a row.

In the third game on March 27, the Titans snapped the Penguins win streak as they defeated them by a final score of 4-2, which gave the Penguins their first conference loss of the season.

The Titans led 4-0 by the bottom of the fourth inning. The Penguins attempted to make a comeback, but didn't score until the seventh inning. Turner hit a two-run homer to pull within two, but the 'Guins had three fly outs in a row.

Despite the loss, the Penguins won the series and returned home to the YSU Softball Complex for five-straight home games.

Youngstown State hosted a non-conference doubleheader against St. Bonaventure University on March 29. They split the series.

The Penguins defeated the Bonnies in the first game 8-0, which was called after five innings because of the

mercy rule. Howell got her seventh win of the year. The team scored in each of the five innings.

In the second game, the Bonnies defeated the Penguins 4-2. Youngstown State attempted to make a comeback in the bottom of the seventh with two runners on base, but came up short in the end.

Head coach Brian Campbell spoke after the game about splitting the doubleheader.

"Softball is different, even though you run-rule somebody, there's another game right after that," Campbell said. "We did a good job the first game just hitting the ball and playing really good defense."

The Penguins will continue Horizon League play in a three-game series against the University of Oakland, starting at 3 p.m. March 31. They will play a doubleheader at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. April 1. To watch the game, go on ESPN+ or view live stats on ysusports.com.



The softball team cheers on its teammates.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

Women's basketball looks to next season



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Women's team huddles.

By Andrew Peterson
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University women's basketball team's season came to an end March 2 with a loss to Northern Kentucky University.

The team lost to the Norse, 59-58 in the Barbasol Horizon League Quarterfinals in the final seconds of the game.

The women finished with a record of 19-11 overall and a 13-7 conference record. Head coach John Barnes commented on the season's conclusion.

"Nineteen wins is a solid season. I think we had our sights set a little bit higher. I think we had a little bit of a sluggish finish, we might have peaked a little bit early. I think overall we worked hard, we played as hard as we possibly could," Barnes said.

The women had an 8-3 start to the year. With some players in big roles on the team graduating, Barnes said the team will be looking to the transfer portal for players.

"The transfer portal just opened up on [March] 13, so any positions that we have open we're looking in the transfer portal," Barnes said.

Mady Aulbach, a senior guard, spoke about her thoughts and expectations following the season.

"Being picked preseason number one, there was definitely a different mindset going into each season. I think people wanted to play a little bit harder against us because we did have a target on our back," Aulbach said.

Youngstown State is losing a key player in fifth-year senior Lily Ritz. Ritz played a vital role as she led the team in scoring the

past two seasons. She averaged just under 17 points per game in the 2021-22 season and averaged 17.4 points per game in the 2022-23 season.

Ritz is the first Penguin to be named Defensive Player of the Year in any conference, and she's the second Youngstown State player to be named to the All-Horizon League First Team twice.

"It's easy to get those accolades when you have great teammates and I think just me getting so close to my teammates and just doing so well — last year we were picked seventh, and we ended up tied for number one," Ritz said.

Barnes said the women's team has plans to make up for the loss of Ritz.

"We have Emily Saunders who's a transfer from the University of Tennessee, and Jenn Wendler will be a senior next year ... Lindsey Linard is a 6-foot-4 player who shot very well this year in the minutes that she got," Barnes said.

The women's team had a down year in comparison to the 2021-22 season, but Barnes has high expectations for next season, like winning another NCAA Championship. Barnes said there is one thing the women want to focus on going into next year.

"Be more consistent, I think we were a little bit up and down throughout the year and it probably cost us in the end," Barnes said.

The team is already getting back to work by starting post-season workouts, strength and conditioning training and individual workouts.

The women's basketball team also led the Horizon League in Name, Image and Likeness earnings. For more information on who the top-three earners were, visit thejambar.com or pick up the March 2 edition of The Jambar.

Men's basketball sees team changes

By Dylan Lux
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team completed a record-breaking season after its loss to Power Five opponent Oklahoma State University in the National Invitational Tournament.

The men ended with a record of 24-10, tying the franchise record in wins set by head coach Dom Rosselli in the 1963-64 season. The team also finished 15-5 in conference play.

The team finished with the best record in the Horizon League, achieving first place after the regular season. This was the first time the Penguins have won the regular season title, placing them at No. 1 in the Horizon League tournament.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun spoke at a press conference about what winning the regular season means to the program, and what it meant to play in the postseason.

"I'm a big believer in the regular season really means something ... we won a championship so we get a chance to compete for another championship against some really good teams," Calhoun said.

The Penguins then hosted University of Detroit Mercy on March 2 for the Horizon League tournament, defeating the Titans, 71-66. The victory clinched a spot in the

final four of the Horizon League in Indianapolis.

Graduate student Adrian Nelson described the support the team received during the home playoff game.

"It's just really amazing to see how much Youngstown really supports us from the beginning of the year to now," Nelson said. "It's crazy just seeing so many red shirts out there, just watching us play and coming out to see us."

YSU played the University of Northern Kentucky on March 6 at Indiana Farmers Coliseum in Indianapolis. The Penguins came up short, falling to the Norse 75-63.

Despite the loss, the men continued to make history, earning a spot in the NIT, and hosted a game against Big 12 opponent Oklahoma State University.

Senior guard Bryce McBride said he was excited the team had the opportunity for another home game.

"We're extremely excited because we thought that our last home game was going to be against Detroit Mercy but for us to play a Big 12 school, a high major team, potentially give Beeghly [Center] it's biggest fan base ever, we're really excited," McBride said.

The Penguins came up short against the Cowboys, 69-64, ending the Penguins' record-breaking season.

Senior guard Dwayne Cohill earned a spot on the All-Horizon League First Team, the ninth Penguin to receive the honor.

Nelson and senior guard Brandon Rush received

All-Horizon League Third Team nods, and John Lovelace Jr. is a member of the All-Freshman Team for the Horizon League. Lovelace Jr. was the third Penguin to receive the honor.

Calhoun was named Coach of the Year in the Horizon League for leading the Penguins to the best record in the conference in the regular season and tied the school record in wins.

This is the last season for four of five starters on the Penguins men's basketball team, including Cohill and Nelson.

Rush has the option to return for his fifth season, as his 2020-2021 season was affected by the pandemic. This gives him the option to play a fourth full season.

Shortly following the team's loss in the NIT game, junior forward William Dunn entered the transfer portal after playing in 25 games this season.

The Penguins already have several high school seniors committed to joining the team.

The recruits to date are 6-foot-4-inch guard Anthony Breland, 7-foot-3-inch center Gabriel Dynes, and 6-foot-4-inch guard, National Junior College Athletic Association transfer David Wilkerson are the recruits the team has at this time.

As the Penguins secure more recruits, they'll be announced on the Verbal Commits website.

Bowling turns in its second-best performance

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University bowling team fell short in the fourth round of the Southland Bowling Championships in Rowlett, Texas, March 24 to 25.

Heading into the competition, head coach Doug Kuberski was named Southland Bowling Coach of the Year on March 23 for the second time in his four-year tenure at Youngstown State.

The fourth-seeded Penguins dropped their opening match, 2-0 against the fifth-ranked Sam Houston State University. Despite posting the third-highest totals on the lanes, Youngstown State lost in traditional as well as Baker matches, 1,085-1,045 and 1,083-1,060, respectively.

Over two games, senior Megan Grams led the Penguins in traditional format by averaging 240.

Individually, junior Kristen Moore tied the highest score on the lanes with a 237, while Grams walked away with eight strikes, totaling 233.

With the loss, the team battled it out against Valparaiso University in the elimination match. Youngstown State won the traditional match, while the Beacons fought back in the Baker match forcing a best-of-seven tiebreaker.

In the tiebreaker, the Penguins won, 4-1 after splitting their first two games. Off the bench, sophomore Madison Doseck moved into the leadoff spot which led Youngstown State to win its final three games.

Youngstown State finished match two with a 2-1 victory and prepared for match three against the top-seeded Vanderbilt University on the second day of competition.

In match three against the Commodores, the Penguins started off with a tough loss in traditional matches but bounced back in the Baker match to force another best-of-seven series. Vandy won the traditional point 1,050-985, while Grams continued her solid play, bowling a 274.

Grams struck nine times in the match and re-

corded her best total of the season. For her dominant performance over the two days of competition, Grams was named to the Southland Bowling League All-Tournament Team on March 26.

The honors marks the third time in program history that a Penguin has earned All-Tournament Team honors at the Southland Championship. Grams joins an exclusive group of former Penguins: Emma Dockery and Emma Wrenn.

"It was nice to be considered for that award," Grams said. "I was just staying in my own head and just focused, making the best shots I could."

Over the final three games in the Baker match, the team averaged 206 pins. Youngstown State managed to flip a 30-pin deficit in game three to earn the slight advantage.

The team went on to win both game four and five by 14 and one points respectively, to even the match.

In the tiebreaker, the Penguins trailed 3-1, but quickly turned things around over three games to force a game seven.

Youngstown State headed into match four with high hopes, but fell short against the sixth-ranked Louisiana Tech University, 2-0.

Despite the fourth-match loss, the team turned in its second-best performance in program history at the Rowlett Bowlarama.

The NCAA announced March 29 that Youngstown State qualified for the regionals. Kuberski is pleased with the team and how hard they have worked throughout the season.

"We had a talk today in practice on how difficult it really is to put ourselves in this position," Kuberski said.

The bowling team will be back in action at the NCAA Bowling Regionals against Maryville University of St. Louis on April 7 and 8.

